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Hanaman and others. They have already vindicated their name in this country as well as at home.

Mr. Charles Stodder, of the Boston Optical Works, exhibited Cutter's clinical microscopes, and Tolles' students' microscopes, of various degrees of completeness and cost. These instruments are already too well known in this country to require comment. That they are thoroughly good of their kind is what is claimed for them, and is the least that can be said of them. In buying a students' microscope, however, the beginner should always be advised, in the writer's judgment, to have it furnished with a first class 1-inch objective or something very near it. So much of his early work is, or ought to be, done with this power, and his success as well as pleasure depends so much upon its light and definition, that it ought to be the last point economized upon. The sliding stage upon some of these instruments would seem to be easily convertible, for those who wish it, into a White's lever stage.

Mr. F. Miller, of New York, exhibited a good students' microscope of very low cost. It is chiefly notable for its large body, which admits a large eye-piece and gives a good field. Mr. Miller also exhibited excellent illuminating prisms and various accessories and objects, including Möller's beautiful type plates.

Crouch's educational microscope had a larger body than even Miller's, admitting the use of the same eye-pieces as the first class stands. The advantage of this is enormous in the case of the lowest eye-piece.

Blankley's neat and convenient tank microscope, made by Swift of London, was exhibited by Dr. Ward. Also Murray and Heath's "sea-side."

Of the general business of the subsection the most important was the appointment of a committee to report in relation to uniform standards in the power of objectives, eye-pieces, etc. President F. A. P. Barnard of New York, Mr. E. Bicknell of Cambridge, Mass., Dr. R. H. Ward of Troy, N. Y., Professor C. E. Pickering of Boston, Professor O. N. Rood of New York, and Dr. Josiah Curtis of Boston, constitute this committee.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. J. H. G.—The Humming Bird you describe is the male of the common Ruby-throated Humming Bird (*Trochilus rubris* L.). The female and the young are without the brilliant scarlet color on the throat seen in the males. After midsummer the scarlet throated individuals are far less numerous thon the others. There is but one species of Humming Bird in the Northern States.—J. A. A

J. M. J., Halifax.—We will endeavor to name the collection of marine invertebrates for you.

S. A. W., Bucks Co., Pa.—Your fern is *Osmunda regalis*.—J. L. R.

S. L., Freehold, N. J.—The caterpiller is that of *Pieris rapæ* Shrank, which was introduced from England to Quebec in 1856 or 1857, and is stated to destroy annually $240,000 worth of cabbages in the neighborhood of that city. It thence spread into New England, and is now common about New York and Philadelphia. It feeds concealed on the heart of the cabbage, while the two other species of Pieris, *P. Protodice* and *P. oleracea*, feed on the outer leaves.

The other specimens were the pupæ of a species of Syrphus fly, which feeds on the plant lice, so abundant on the cabbage in the autumn. The Syrphus fly is of course very beneficial.